



THOMAS L. GARTHWAITE, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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December 13, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEDICAL CENTER- HANDLING OF DECEASED BODIES**

On November 13, 2002, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Burke instructing this Department's Health Facilities Division to investigate the manner in which Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center handled the disposition of Armando Chapal Ramirez's remains, as well as the medical centers general handling of deceased bodies.

On November 1, 2002, pursuant to a previous complaint, an unannounced visit was conducted at the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center.

During the investigation, it was discovered that the facility had one body that had been in the morgue for ten months and another body that had been there for over a year. The hospital was cited, pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, for not being in compliance with three areas of requirements. The facility is required to submit a Plan of Correction identifying how they corrected the deficient practices and what methods they have instituted to prevent any further re-occurrences.

When the plan of correction is received, I will provide you with a final report.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

TLG:ep
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c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Administrative Officer

bc: Ernest Pooleon